

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 /021 W

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O R 260855Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3391

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BCOM, BEXP

SUBJECT: TRADE CENTER CLOSING

REF: STATE 257415

1. I WOULD DEEM A DECISION TO CLOSE THE US TRADE CENTER IN STOCKHOLM ADVERSE TO US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

2. I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON COMMERCE FOR QUANTITATIVE DEMONSTRATION BASED ON DATA SUBMITTED BY THIS EMBASSY SHOWING THAT THE STOCKHOLM CENTER, LIKE OTHER US TRADE CENTERS, CONTRIBUTES A SUBSTANTIAL INCREMENT TO EXPORT SALE OF US COMPANIES, AND THAT THIS EFFORT TO IMPROVE OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IS AN OBLIGATION
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OUR GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO SHIRK. QUALITATIVELY, HERE IN

STOCKHOLM I CAN SEE CLEAR ADVANTAGES TO THE COORDINATED SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE TRADE CENTER APPROACH. AMERICAN OFFICERS AND SWEDISH PERSONNEL HAVE DEVELOPED VALUABLE EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, AND CONTACTS IN TRADE PROMOTION. IT WOULD BE DEPLORABLE TO DISPERSE THESE ASSETS.

3. AMONG THE GIVENS OF OUR SITUATION ARE THESE: THE EMERGENCE OF SWEDEN AS THE COUNTRY WITH THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT IN THE WORLD; AN EXPANDING MARKET FOR PEAK-TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS AND AMERICAN CONSUMER GOODS, WHERE, HOWEVER, AMERICAN PRODUCTS FACE EVER-SHARPER COMPETITION FROM COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES. AT PRESENT, A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT IN POLITICAL RELATIONS OPENS UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BETTER TRADE RELATIONS.

4. THE PRESENT REGIONAL SET-UP IS A BALANCED AND RATIONAL ONE, ADDING AN IMPORTANT DIMENSION TO THE REGULAR COMMERCIAL FACILITIES OF OUR OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE NOT BE AVAILABLE.

5. IN THE SPRING OF 1974 WE RESTORED FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN AFTER A PERIOD OF TWENTY MONTHS OF STRAIN IN OUR BILATERAL TIES. IF WE WERE NOW TO CLOSE THE CENTER, THE SWEDES WOULD INTERPRET IT AS A LESSENING OF INTEREST IN THEIR COUNTRY. I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS THAT WE ASSURE THE SWEDES OF THE HIGH VALUE THAT WE PLACE ON OUR ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIPS. THE CLOSING OF THE CENTER WOULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE DO NOT REGARD INCREASED TRADE AND OTHER EXCHANGES WITH SWEDEN AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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